ACT

For ſecuring the publick Peace.

At *Hally-rude-houſe*, the 14. day of *February*, 1678.

HE Lords of His *Majeſties* Privy Council conſidering ſeriouſly, that the greateſt part of the diſorders of this Nation are occaſioned by a ſeditious and ſchiſmatick humour in ſome *Weſterne* and other Shires, which upon all occaſions inflames them into great Irregularities, and remembring how, albeit it might have been expected after His *Majeſties* happy Reſtauration, that the freſh remembrance of theſe inſolencies which we ſuffered under a Tyrannick uſurpation, (drawn upon us by the ſame ſeditious Principles, which began now to revive in thoſe places) would have inclined all His *Majeſties* good Subjects to live with great ſatisfaction under His happy Government, and to believe that the Laws made by His *Majeſty*, and their own Repreſentatives, were ſufficient remedies of theſe bygone diſtempers, and the ſafeſt means for preventing the like for [illegible] did, by a moſt remarkable principle of diſloyalty, riſe in rebellion againſt their Native [illegible] was ingadged in a forraign war: And though after the beating of their forces, His *Ma*[illegible] even to theſe Rebels, and had ſo far gratified thoſe Shires, as to grant them an Indulgence; yet they continued ſtill to diſturbe the [illegible] their infection over the neighbouring Shires, by aſſembling themſelves in field Conventicles, theſe *Rendezvouſes* of rebellion, [illegible]g, and hearing Intercommuned Preachers, and declared Traitors, who infuſed in them and boldly rebellious and treacherous Pr[illegible]nvading the perſons, uſurping the Pulpits of the Orthodox Clergie, threatning, affronting, and injuring both them and ſuch as adhered to [illegible]d by diſobeying and deforceing with armed men in a Hoſtile manner, and even wounding and killing ſuch as offered in His Majeſties name to [illegible]ws in execution: And to let the world ſee that they were fixedly reſolved to adhere to t[illegible]e principles in ſpight of Authority, and that they [illegible]ed themſelves in a permanent form of Government (as they imagined) They did hold Seſſions, Presbyteries and Aſſemblies, eſtabliſhed correſpondencies, and for perpetuating the Schiſme, Ordained and granted Miſſions to Preachers, built Meeting-places, and taxed His Majeſties Subjects for their maintainance: And that they might cut off their Proſelytes from all dependance upon their Native Prince, againſt whoſe Perſon and Government they rayled upon all occaſions; they at laſt arrived at ſo great a height of rebellion, as to perſwade the people, that it was unlawful to take the Oath of Alleadgeance: Whereupon the Lords of His Majeſties Privy Council, upon deſigne to prevent theſe growing diſorders, or the juſt ſeverity which the Authors thereof had deſerved, Did Ordain the Commiſſioners of Excale, Militia, and Juſtices of Peace within theſe Shires, to meet and to propoſe ſuch means as might effectually ſecure His Majeſtie and the Peace of the Countrey; With certification that if they did not, His Majeſtie behoved to reduce them to their dutie by force, and would look upon the [illegible] them who refuſed to ſecure the peace (as ſaid is) as involved in, and [illegible]autors of, thoſe ſeditious and diſorderly courſes. To which they returned no other anſwer, ſave that theſe diſorders were grown to ſuch a height, that it was not in their power to redreſs them; whereupon it was thought high time to acquaint His Majeſtie with the preſent ſtate of theſe His Affairs here, Who to vindicate His own Authority, and from a tender Care of His People, whoſe ſecurity with that of His Laws, He did foreſee to be undermined by ſuch pernicious contrivances and practiſes; Did by His Royall Letter, dated the eleventh day of *December*, 167[illegible]. declare His reſentment againſt, and His deteſtation of theſe courſes: And for ſuppreſſing thereof, commanded and authoriſed His ſaid Privy Council, to proceed by force and armes, to reduce that Countrey to their obedience, and to obliege them to g ve bands for their own, and their tenents, living Regularly and Obedient to the Laws; And particularly, that they ſhould not go to Conventicles, harbour nor commune with Rebels, or perſons intercommuned, and for keeping the perſons, families, and goods of their regular Miniſters harmleſs; and that under ſuch penalties as they ſhould think fit. In obedience to which Letter, a band was accordingly drawn, onely obliging the Heretors alternatively, either to preſent their tenents, or to remove them; and declared, that they ſhould be onely anſwerable for their ſaids tenents, if they were convict within a year after the committing of theſe delinquencies. All which courſes proving ineffectual, His Majeſtie hath juſt reaſon to ſuſpect the deſignes of ſuch as have or ſhall refuſe or delay to take the ſaid band, as tending to overthrow His Majeſties Authority, to ſubvert the eſtabliſhed Order of the Church, and to diſquiet the Peace of His Majeſties good Subjects: And ſince every privat Subject may force ſuch, from whom they fear any harm, to ſecure them by Lawborrows, and that it hath been the uncontroverted and Legal practice of His *Majeſties* Privy Council to obliege ſuch whoſe peaceableneſs they juſtly ſuſpected, to ſecure the peace for themſelves, their Wives, Bairns, Men, tenents, and Servants, which are the [illegible] of all ſuch bands; and that under ſuch penalties as they find ſuitable to their contempt, guilt or occaſion, upon [illegible]ble to the qualities of ſuch from whom caution is craved. Therefore, the Lords of His Majeſties Privy [illegible]ty hath declared His juſt ſuſpition of thoſe who refuſe or delay to take the ſaid band in the terms foreſaids; And the ſaids Lo[illegible]ſeries foreſaid juſtly ſuſpicious of the practiſes and principles of ſuch as refuſe the ſame, do Ordain, That all ſuch perſons as re[illegible]ſhall be obliged to Enact themſelves in the books of Secret Council, that they, their wives, bairns, men, tennants, and ſervants, ſhall [illegible]jeſties Peace, and particularly, that they ſhal not goe to field Conventicles, nor harbour nor commune with Rebells, or perſons intercom[illegible] that they ſhall keep the perſons, families and goods of their Regular Miniſters harmleſs; and that under the double of every mans valued [illegible], (if he have any) and of ſuch other penalties as ſhall be thought convenient by the Lords of His Majeſties Privy Councill, or their Co[illegible]if they have no valued rent: ordaining Letters to be direct for charging all ſuch perſons to refuſe to take the ſaid band, to Enact them[illegible]the books of Privy Council, to the effect foreſaid, and that within ſix days after the charge, under the pain of rebellion, and [illegible]hem to the horn; With certification to them if they faile, the ſaid ſpace being by-paſt, that they ſhall be denunced Rebels, and put to the horn for their contempt and diſobedience: And Ordains theſe preſents to be Extracted by me,

Al. Gibſone, Cls. Sti. Concilii.

GOD ſave the KING.

EDINBURGH, Printed by the Heir of *Andrew Anderſon*, Printer to the King's moſt Sacred *Majeſtie*. 1678.